

Education and Early Learning

Issue #1

Joint commitment toward the Department of Early Learning government to government agreement; will include regional outreach. Need formal government to government protocols. No tribal inclusion in development of early learning benchmark standards.

Action items:

- Set up meetings to further develop and finalize draft agreement.
- Get the benchmark review and kindergarten assessment process started with Tribal decision making authority and work toward resolution of the benchmarks.
- Engage the planning authors of the state plan and others in "race matters" or other similar trainings.
- Include Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) members and DEL staff in the GOIA Government to Government training.

Issue #2

Tribes request that state use education stimulus (ARRA) funds to help close the achievement gap. Public schools are failing to meet the educational needs of Indian students.

Action items: Implement the recommendations of the NA achievement study.

Issue #3

Tribes are concerned that there was not a consultation process regarding the decision to join the Common Core Standards Initiative. We are concerned that culturally based education systems are not recognized.

Action items: Schedule and implement Tribal consultation.

Issue #4

We are disappointed that we didn't get a half credit in history for Tribal Sovereignty curriculum developed by OSPI into existing system. We are concerned that Core 24 will increase dropout rate and widen the NA achievement gap. We feel that longer school days will not produce positive results.

Action items: We will continue our efforts to make Tribal history a graduation requirement, and we would appreciate support from the Governor. Reassess the decision to implement 24 state mandated credits for graduation.

Issue #5

Reduction of local effort assistance funding. Reduction of I728 funds. Tribal school pass through funding subject to school district taking administrative fees and imposing compliance standards. All day kindergarten in Basic Education but not funded.

Action items: Continue to fund local effort assistance minimally at the current local level. Request a study of funding in Tribal schools. Give priority to funding all day kindergarten (could state stimulus dollars be used?).